RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

Funds for Agricultural Loans.

127. ✻ **MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state how many applications for agricultural loans were disallowed, in the years 1106 to 1109, for absence of fund, from the Nedumangad Taluk Cutcherry and Trivandrum Division Cutcherry?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No application for agricultural loan was rejected from these offices in the years 1106 to 1109 for want of budget allotment.

Protection of cocoanut industry.

128. ✻ **MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR** (*Kartikapalli II*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have pressed on the British Indian Government the necessity for protecting cocoanut cultivation in Travancore; and

(*b*) whether they are aware that the people of Travancore have to bear heavy burdens owing to import duties to protect the cotton, iron, sugar and other industries of British India?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): May I know from Government the result of their correspondence with the Government of India?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The matter has been referred to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. They appointed a sub-committee which met a few days ago and the resolutions which that committee passed on this matter have been sent to the Government of India.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): May I know from Government whether a final decision has been reached by the Government of India?

PRESIDENT: It has been already stated that the matter is under consideration by the Government of India.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): With reference to his answer to part (b) of the question, may I know whether they have impressed upon the British Government and the Imperial Government that a reduction of import duty is essential?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We have made representations to Government on the point as strongly as we could.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know from Government whether there will be a further reduction of import duty as a result of that representation?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We addressed the Government of India on the matter not once but several times.

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PRESIDENT: Rather made representations to the Government of India.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): May I know whether the Government have addressed the Government of India with regard to the advisability of deferring the consideration of the new tariff on cocoanuts till the report of the sub-committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was received?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): When this Government knew that the Government of India were going to reduce the tariff from the 1st January 1935, they again made representations to the Government of India pointing out that it would be detrimental to the cocoanut cultivators of Travancore to reduce the tariff. But, I may also say that the Government of India reduced the tariff not because they did not want to consider our representation but because of their accepted policy to revise the tariffs on the basis of the prices of commodities during the previous year. The recent reduction does not mean that the Government of India will not consider our request. But they will not do anything by way of increasing the tariffs unless and until they change their present policy and it is for a change in this policy that we have made representations to the Government of India. When this Government knew towards the end of 1934 that the Government of India were going to reduce the tariff value from the 1st of January 1935, they again made a representation to the Government of India protesting against the reduction. I may say again that the Government of India reduced the tariff not because they did not want to consider our request but because of their accepted policy in fixing the tariffs. At the beginning of every year the tarift values of commodities will be revised on the basis of the prices which prevailed during the previous year.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whether when the whole matter was under the consideration of the Agricultural Research Committee, this Government addressed the Government of India requesting them to defer the consideration of the tariff till the committee's report was received?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, we did so. But the Government of India will not defer consideration unless and until they revise their present policy of revising the tariff value. We made the necessary representations to the Government of India and the matter is now under their consideration.

Protection of cocoanut industry.

129. ***MR. M. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have pressed on the British Indian Government the necessity for adequately protecting cocoanut cultivation in Travancore?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

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